

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
ASHEVILLE DIVISION**

**CIVIL NO. 1:05CV263
(1:03CR50)**

CHARLES JETER GRIFFITH,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
vs.)
)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Respondent.)
_____)

ORDER

THIS MATTER is before the Court on receipt of trial counsel's affidavit and the Government's response to Petitioner's motion to vacate, set aside or correct sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255, and its motion to dismiss.

With the filing of trial counsel's affidavit, the Court deems it appropriate to convert the Government's motion to dismiss to one for summary judgment pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56, and provide the Petitioner with the opportunity to respond thereto.

In accordance with *Roseboro v. Garrison*, 528 F.2d 309 (4th Cir. 1975), Petitioner, who is proceeding *pro se*, is cautioned that he carries a

heavy burden in responding to a motion for summary judgment. Rule 56(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides:

When a motion for summary judgment is made and supported as provided in this rule, an adverse party may not rest upon the mere allegations or denials of the adverse party's pleading, but the adverse party's response, by affidavits or as otherwise provided in this rule, must set forth specific facts showing that there is a genuine issue for trial. If the adverse party does not so respond, summary judgment, if appropriate, shall be entered against the adverse party.

This language means that if the Petitioner has any evidence to offer to show that there is a genuine issue for trial, he must now present it to the Court in a form which would otherwise be admissible at trial, that is, in the form of affidavits or unsworn declarations. An affidavit is a written statement under oath; in other words, a statement prepared in writing and sworn before a notary public. An unsworn statement, made and signed under the penalty of perjury, may also be submitted.

Affidavits or statements must be presented by the Petitioner to this Court within thirty (30) days from service of this Order. As stated by Rule 56(e), Petitioner's failure to respond may result in the action being summarily dismissed.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the Respondent's motion to dismiss is hereby converted to a motion for summary judgment pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Petitioner is allowed thirty (30) days from service of this Order within which to respond, in accordance with the provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e), to Respondent's motion.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk provide a copy of the Affidavit of Gregory A. Newman to the Petitioner along with a copy of this Order.

Signed: November 26, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lacy H. Thornburg', is written over a horizontal line.

Lacy H. Thornburg
United States District Judge

